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Bible Stories

for the
Primary Department

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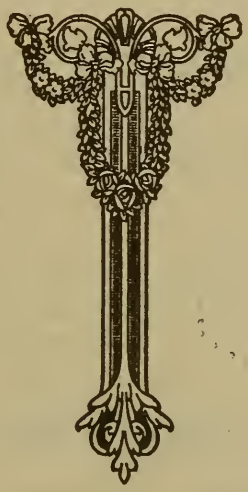
BIBLE STORIES

For use in the Primary Department of the Sunday School

Prepared by
OLGA E. LINDBORG
for
THE COVENANT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NATH. FRANKLIN, Editor



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GOD THE CREATOR

Memory Verse:

"The Earth is the Lord's and
the Fulness Thereof."

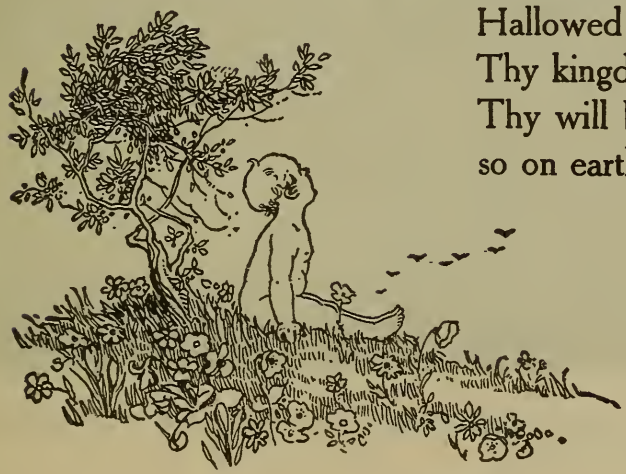
Ps. 24: 1.

Memory Work:

The Lord's Prayer:

(First Part)

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, as in heaven,
so on earth.



Memory Verse: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Gen. 1:1.

1. God Made Heaven and Earth

(Gen. 1:1-10; Ps. 33:6-9)

Why is there day and night? And earth and sky and sea? Who could have made the earth?

GOD did it!

On the first page of the first book of God's Word, the Bible, we read about it.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. He did it step by step.

The earth was waste and empty and darkness was on the waters. God's spirit moved over the face of the waters and God said: "Let there be light!" And there was light. And God saw that the light was good. God divided the light from darkness and called the light Day and the darkness Night.

Then God made the sky. He let the mists from the waters on the face of the earth lift upwards and become the clouds. And God called the sky Heaven.

God put the waters on the face of the earth in one place and let the dry land appear. God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas.

And God saw that his work was good.

Memory Verse: "He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man." Ps. 104:14.

2. God Made the Plants

(Gen. 1:11-13; Ps. 104:13, 14)

What a bare place the earth would be if God had stopped in his work after he made the seas and the dry land!

God wanted the earth he had made to be beautiful and fruitful. He wanted it to have fresh green leaves and grass and buds in springtime. He wanted it to have flowers and herbs and sweet-smelling vines in summer-time. He wanted it to have fruit and grain in harvest time. He wanted the earth, too, to have a time in the year for rest, when it could take on new strength as well as keep tiny seeds and roots and sleeping things warm in the ground, so there could be other springtimes and summer-times and harvest times.

So way back in the beginning of time, after God had made the dry land, he said: "Let the earth put forth grass, herbs yielding seed, and fruit trees, bearing fruit after their kind."

And the earth put forth grass, herbs yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit after their kind.

And God placed the sun and moon and stars in the sky to shine over the earth and to rule over day and night and spring and summer and autumn and winter, that each would come and go in its season.

God gave a wonderful gift to the grass and herbs and trees. God put tiny seeds within their blossoms and their fruit, so that when the tiny seeds would fall into the ground, they could take on roots and change and grow and come up out of the ground again and become new plants of their kind, under the light and warmth of the sunshine, and watered by the dew and the rain.

So the plants have kept on growing on the earth.

Just how they grow is God's secret.

He said, in the beginning, that it would be that way, and he saw that the plants that he had made were very good.

Memory Verse: "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle on the thousand hills." Ps. 50:10.

3. God Made the Animals

(Gen. 1:20-25)

The new earth was a beautiful place, with all its green and growing things, the flowers and herbs and trees, that God had made.

But God did not only want the earth to be beautiful. He wanted it to have living creatures on it, to enjoy its beauty and have use of its plants. Not only should they have use of the dry land and the things that grew on the land, but also of the seas and the sky.

So way back in the beginning, after God had made the sky and the seas and the dry land, and made all the beautiful and fruitful plants, he said:

"Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth."

And God created the great sea animals and the fishes and the birds. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said: "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind, cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind." And it was so.

And God gave all the living things in the sea and all the birds in the air and all the animals on the earth a wonderful gift. He said that they should multiply, which means that there should always be fish in the sea and birds in the air and animals on the earth after their own kind.

That, too, was one of God's secrets. But, in the beginning, God said that it should be so, and God saw that his work was good.

Memory Verse: "God created man in his own image." Gen. 1:27.

4. God Made Man

(Gen. 1:26-31; 2:7-23)

Suppose there were no people on the beautiful earth that God made!

Way back in the beginning, after God had made the earth and the plants and the animals, he made a living creature that was greater than any living creature he had already made on the earth.

GOD made Man.

God made man in his own image, which means that he made him in his own likeness. He made him in a wonderful way. He formed man of dust of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life and man became a living soul.

Then God gave man a beautiful spot of the earth, called Eden, to live in. Eden was a lovely garden. Man was to care for this garden. Man was to name all the animals and to rule over them. God had made the whole earth for man. Here in Eden God came and talked with man about it.

God saw that man needed a helper in his garden home.

God made man's helper in a wonderful way. He let a deep sleep come over the man. When the man awoke, there beside him stood a woman, that God had made.

The man and the woman were very happy together in Eden. They were both God's friends and they were both made in God's image.

God blessed them and told them to multiply, which means that bye and bye there would be more people on the earth. There would be little children on earth, who would grow up to be men and women.

And God saw that everything he had made was very good.

A New Created World

Arranged from HAYDN'S "THE CREATION"

Joyfully.

A new cre - at - ed world, A new cre - at - ed world,

Springs up, springs up at God's com-mand, Springs up at

God's com - mand, Springs up at God's com - mand.

GOD'S LOVING CARE

Memory Verse:

"He Careth for You."

1 Pet. 5: 7

Memory Work:

The Lord's Prayer:

(Continued)

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And bring us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Memory Verse: "Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not; for to such belongeth the kingdom of God." Mark. 10:14.

5. God Gives Us Our Homes

(Exodus 2:1-10)

Ever since the beautiful home in Eden, God has given people homes.

Long ago, God had blessed a good man and a good woman with a beautiful baby boy. Theirs was such a happy home!

But, there lived a wicked king in their land. He did not want God's people to have happy homes. He ordered that all little baby boys should be thrown into a deep river that flowed through the land.

This brought much sorrow in the homes of God's people, and not least in the home to which the beautiful baby boy had come.

His mother hid her little baby in the house for three months. Then, knowing she could hide him no longer, she made a water-tight basket for him. She put him in the basket and placed it in the river, close to the shore, where the tall grasses could hide it.

The little boy's sister, whose name was Miriam, stood on the shore near by and watched the basket.

Pretty soon the princess, a daughter of the wicked king, came down to the river to bathe. She spied the little basket and sent her maids to get it. When she opened it, the little baby lay there and cried. The princess, who had a tender heart, wanted to take the baby home with her.

Just then the baby's sister ran up and asked if she might bring a nurse for him. The princess said she might. And, of course, Miriam brought the little baby's mother.

The princess did not know that. But God had willed it so. And the little boy was allowed to grow up in his own happy home and be taken care of by his father and mother and Miriam, and the princess, too. And he was quite a big boy when he went to live with the princess.

The little boy's name was Moses.

Memory Verse: "He sent them food to the full." Ps. 78:25.

6. God Gives Us Food

(Exodus 16:4-21)

Long ago, when God's people were on a long journey through a great desert, they became very hungry.

The food they had brought with them was all gone. They began to fret about it. And they scolded their leader, Moses, because he had brought them out into the desert.

Then God said to Moses: "Behold I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day."

Every morning during the weekdays the people were to gather just so much of the bread as they could eat that day. On the sixth day of the week they were to gather enough for two days. On the seventh day, which was the Sabbath, they were to rest from all work.

God said to Moses: "Speak to them, saying: 'At evening ye shall eat meat, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am Jehovah your God.'"

That evening God sent them birds to eat. In the mornings, when the dew had gone, something beautiful and white, like bread, covered the ground. This was the food that God had given his people.

If someone tried to store up more bread than he needed for the day, it spoiled for him. If any bread was left on the ground when the sun grew hot in the middle of the day, it melted away.

Memory Verse: "He gave them drink abundantly as out of the depths." Ps. 78:15.

7. God Gives Us Water

(Exodus 17:1-6)

When God's people were on the long journey through the desert it happened, too, that they became very thirsty.

Many times it was hard to find water in the desert. It seldom rains in the desert and the springs and wells often dry up.

God's people began to grumble. They grew angry at their leader. They feared they would die of thirst. They cried: "Give us water that we may drink!"

Their leader, Moses, prayed to God for help.

God told Moses to take his staff and go to a certain rock in the desert.

God said: "Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink."

And Moses did as God had told him.

And the people were given water to drink.

Memory Verse: "Teach me good judgment and knowledge; for I have believed in thy commandments." Ps. 119:66.

8. God Gives Us Schools

(Deut. 6:6-9, 20-25)

All the time God's people were on the journey through the desert, God took care of them in every way. He not only gave them food and drink. He gave them wisdom. He was their teacher.

God told his will to Moses and Moses told God's people all the things God wanted them to know and understand and the things they should tell to their children.

God said: "Thou shalt love Jehovah thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

God wanted the people, too, to teach their children about God's will. They should talk often with their children about God's law and about God's goodness to his people.

In that way the children of God's people went to school in their own homes, where mother and father and all the grown-ups loved God and wanted their children to learn to love and obey him, too.

If the children listened to their teachers and did according to God's will, it would be counted for their good always.

Memory Verse: "We have thought on thy loving kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple." Ps. 48:9.

9. God Gives Us a Temple

(Exodus 40)

When God's people were on the journey through the desert, God gave them a house called the Tabernacle, to worship him in.

God gave the plan to build it by to the leader of his people, Moses.

There was a fence around the yard of the Tabernacle. In the yard was a large altar, on which the priest, who led the services, made an offering to God. Not far from the altar was a large bowl, in which the priests washed their hands and feet before they went into the Tabernacle.

The Tabernacle itself was a big tent. There were two rooms in the tent.

The first room was called The Holy Place. In it were a golden candle stick and a table and another altar. On the table were twelve loaves of bread.

The other room was called The Holy of Holies. In it was a large chest, covered with gold, and with two golden angels on top. This chest was called the Ark of the Covenant. In the Ark of the Covenant were kept two stone tablets, on which God's laws were written.

Once a year the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies to sprinkle blood from the offering on the lid of the Ark of the Covenant. This was done for the sins of the people, that God should forgive them.

A cloud rested over the Tabernacle by day, and a fiery pillar hung over it by night. And the glory of God filled the Tabernacle.

When the people moved on through the desert, they took the Tabernacle with them, for it was made so that it could be moved from place to place.

Memory Verse: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matt. 5:8.

10. God Gives Us a Heavenly Home

(Rev. 21:10—22:5)

Once long ago, one of God's good men, named John, had been sent to a lonely island to live all by himself. He had been telling the people about Jesus and they did not want him in their land because he had.

While he was on this lonely island, God showed him many wonderful things that would come to pass.

God gave him a wonderful vision of the heavenly home.

It was the holy city Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

John saw great white towers and a white wall, like jasper stone, all around the city. There were all kinds of beautiful precious stones in the wall, that sparkled in the light.

There were twelve gates of pearl in the wall, and an angel stood guard at each gate.

The city's street was of pure gold. A great light, more bright than any sun, shone over the city. It was God himself, who was the light. There were no moon and stars, for there was no night in that beautiful city.

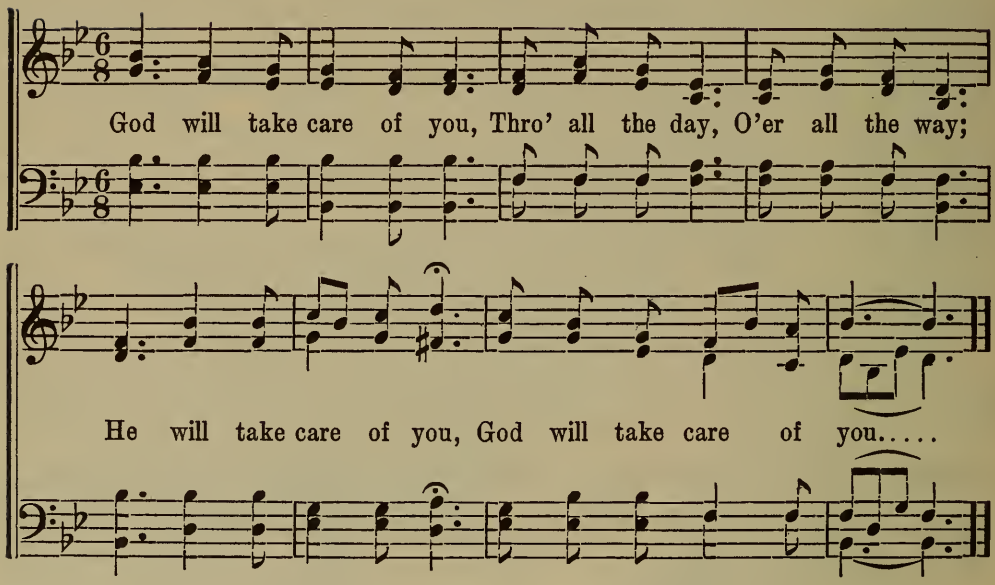
Through the street of the city flowed a wonderful river. It came from the throne of God, and it was called "the river of life." Its water was clear as crystal. On the banks of the river grew the tree of life, which bore fruit each month in the year. And there was no sickness or sorrow or death in that city.

Everything was clean and beautiful. Nothing unclean or sinful could enter there.

It was a picture of the heavenly home that God is preparing for his people and where they will some day gather to live with him forever and forever.

God Will Take Care of You

W. S. MARTIN



Blessing Before Meals

Dear Heavenly Father, bless this food to our use and us to thy service, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

GOD'S HELPERS

Memory Verse:

"Serve Him with a Perfect Heart
and with a Willing Mind."

1 Chron. 28:9.

Memory Work:

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, as in heaven,
so on earth.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have
forgiven our debtors.
And bring us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

For thine is the kingdom, and
the power,
and the glory, for ever.

Amen.

Memory Verse: "I am thy servant; give me understanding." Ps. 119:125.

11. Elijah During a Time of Drought

(1 Kings 17:1-16)

One time, long ago, God let the heavens be shut up for three years and six months, so that no dew nor rain fell and there was great hunger in the land of Israel. He did this because of the sins of the people.

But God cared for his helper, the prophet Elijah.

At first he let Elijah live by the side of a brook, called Cherith. Here the birds brought him food morning and night, and he drank of the water in the brook.

But after a while the brook dried up. Then God told Elijah to go far away to a city, named Zarephath. When Elijah came to Zarephath, where God had told him a poor widow was to care for him, he met a poor woman outside the city gates. She was the widow, and she was gathering sticks.

Elijah begged her to bring him a little water to drink. As the widow went to fetch the water, Elijah called after her: "Bring me, I pray thee, a bit of bread in thy hand."

But the poor woman had no bread. She had only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a cruse. She had gathered the sticks to make a fire and cook of the meal and the oil that she and her son might eat, and then, when that was gone, die of hunger.

Then Elijah said to her: "Fear not; go and do as thou hast said; but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it forth unto me, and afterwards make for thee and thy son.

"For God saith: 'The jar of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that God sendeth rain upon the earth.' "

And the widow did as Elijah told her. And she and Elijah and all who were in her house had plenty to eat as long as the dry time lasted.

Memory Verse: "If Jehovah be God, follow him!"
1 Kings 18:21.

12. Elijah Prays Down Fire and Rain

(1 Kings 18:21-45)

Then the time came when God told Elijah to go back to his land again and tell the people that if they would turn away from their idol, Baal, he would send rain again in the land.

Ahab, the king, gathered together all the people on a high mountain, called Carmel. Among them were four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal. Elijah told them to make an offering of a bullock on their altar and call on their God to send fire from heaven to burn it. For, said Elijah, "Call ye on the name of your God, and I will call on the name of Jehovah, and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God."

All the people thought that was fair.

So the prophets of Baal began calling to their god. But he did not answer.

Toward noonday, Elijah began to mock them, saying: "Cry aloud! Perhaps he sleepeth and must be awakened!"

They cried aloud until late in the afternoon, but no answer came.

Then Elijah built up the altar of Jehovah with twelve stones. He put a bullock on the altar with plenty of wood under it. Then he let the people pour water over all of it and around the altar. When that was done, Elijah called to God and God sent fire from heaven. Not only did the fire God sent burn up the offering, but it even burned the stones and the dust and licked up all the water.

When the people saw it, they bowed down and said: "Jehovah, he is God! Jehovah, he is God!"

Then Elijah went farther up the mountain to pray.

In a little while it came to pass that the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain.

Memory Verse: "He will have pity on the poor and needy." Ps. 72:13.

13. Elisha Helps the Poor

(2 Kings 4:1-17)

Once God had a helper, whose name was Elisha. Elisha, like Elijah, was one of God's prophets.

One day a poor widow, who had two sons, came to Elisha, begging him for help.

The poor widow's husband had been a good man, who had loved and served God. He had been a friend of Elisha, too.

After he died, a man to whom he owed money came to the widow and wanted to take her two sons away as slaves, because she had no money with which to pay the debt.

Elisha said to her: "What shall I do for thee? Tell me: what hast thou in the house?"

And the poor woman said: "I have nothing in the house save a pot of oil."

Then Elisha told her to ask her neighbors to lend her all the empty jars they could spare.

And Elisha said: "Thou shalt go in, and shut the door upon thee and thy sons, and pour out into all those jars; and thou shalt set aside that which is full."

The poor woman did as Elisha had told her. Her boys helped her pour the oil from the little pot into the jars that she had borrowed. And the oil in the little pot did not give out until all the jars were filled.

Then she came to Elisha and told him about it.

Elisha said to her: "Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy sons of the rest."

Memory Verse: "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." Ps. 51:2.

14. Elisha Cures a Man of Leprosy

(2 Kings 5:1-14)

Long, long ago, when the king of the land of Syria had won a victory over God's people, the Syrians took with them a little girl belonging to God's people. They took her to their country, where she became the maid of the wife of a captain in the Syrian army.

The little girl knew God's helper, the prophet Elisha.

The captain in the Syrian army was named Naaman. He was a great and honorable man, but he had a terrible sickness. He was a leper.

One day the little girl of God's people told Naaman's wife that God's helper, the prophet Elisha, could surely cure Naaman of his leprosy, if only Naaman would go to him. And then they told Naaman about it.

Naaman spoke to the king of Syria about it. The king told Naaman to start at once to see Elisha. He gave Naaman a letter to the king of God's people, and sent gifts of money along. And Naaman came to the king.

But the king could not help Naaman. So he sent him to Elisha. Elisha told him to go and wash in the river Jordan. He should dip himself in the waters of the river Jordan seven times, and it would make him well.

But Naaman, who thought that was a very queer way of getting cured from so terrible a sickness as leprosy, got very angry at Elisha and decided to go home instead.

Then one of his servants said to him: "If the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, thou wouldest have done it. How much rather then, when he saith to thee: 'Wash and be clean?' "

So Naaman went down to the river Jordan and dipped himself seven times. When he came up again he was clean and well, like a little child.

Little Feet, Be Careful

J. H. ROSECRANS

1. I washed my hands this morn - ing, O ver - y clean and white,
2. I told my ears to lis - ten Quite close - ly all day thro',
3. My eyes are set to watch them A - bout their work or play,

And left them both to Je - sus, To work for Him till night.
For an - y act of kind - ness Such lit - tle hands can do.
To keep them out of mis - chief, For Je - sus' sake all day.

CHORUS.

Lit - tle feet be care - ful, Where you take me to;

An - y - thing for Je - sus, On - ly let me do.

PRAYER

Memory Verse:

"Jehovah is Nigh Unto All Them
that Call Upon Him."

Ps. 145:18

Memory Work:

An Evening Prayer:

"Jesus, tender shepherd, hear us,
Bless thy little lambs to-night;
Through the darkness be thou near us,
Keep us safe till morning light.

"All this day thy hand has led us,
And we thank thee for this care;
Thou hast clothed us, warmed us, fed us,
Listen to our evening prayer.

"May our sins be all forgiven,
Bless the friends we love so well;
Take us when we die to heaven,
Happy there with thee to dwell."

Amen.

Memory Verse: "As for me, I will call upon God . . . evening and morning and at noonday, . . . and he will hear my voice." Ps. 55:16, 17.

15. Morning and Evening Prayer

(Dan. 6:1-25)

Once some wicked men got their king to sign his name to a wicked rule. For a whole month, so the rule read, no one in the whole land was allowed to pray to any other than the king himself. Anyone who did not obey the rule was to be cast into a den of lions.

There was at the king's court a man, named Daniel, who belonged to God's people. The other men at the court did not like Daniel, for Daniel was much wiser than they. He loved the true God, who had given him much wisdom.

Three times a day Daniel knelt in his house and prayed and gave thanks to God.

Even when he heard about the wicked rule that the king had signed, he prayed to God just as he had always done.

The other men at the court told the king about it. The king was grieved, for he loved Daniel. But he was a proud king who would not change his rules.

Daniel was cast into the den of lions.

That night the king could not sleep. Early the next morning he hurried to the lions' den. As he came near he called: "Is thy God, whom thou servest all the time, able to free thee from the lions?"

And to his great joy, Daniel answered: "My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouth, and they have not hurt me."

Then Daniel was taken out of the lions' den, and no manner of hurt was found on him.

He had not been afraid, for had he not prayed to God night and morning and noontime?

Memory Verse: "He guided me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Ps. 23:3.

16. Prayer for a Safe Journey

(Ezra 8:21-23)

God's people had been away from their homeland a long time. At last they were to return to their own land again. The road home was long and there were many dangers on the way.

The king of the land where God's people had lived these many years would gladly have sent a band of soldiers along to guide them and guard them on the way.

But the leader of God's people, a good man named Ezra, felt sure that God was mighty enough to care for his people.

Ezra was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers.

For the people had said to the king: "The hand of our God is upon all them that seek him, for good; but his power and his wrath are against all them that forsake him."

Ezra gathered all the people together to fast and pray, and to seek of God a straight path for them and their children and their belongings.

God's people fasted and prayed, and God heard their prayer and brought them safely to their homeland.

Memory Verse: "Recover thou me, and make me to live." Isaiah 38:16.

17. Prayer for Recovery

(Isaiah 38)

Once God's people had a good king, named Hezekiah. Hezekiah became very sick.

God sent his messenger, the prophet Isaiah, to Hezekiah's bedside to tell Hezekiah that he would soon have to die.

Hezekiah was very sad. He wanted to live a long time. He turned his face to the wall, when he heard Isaiah's message, and prayed to God to make him well. He said to God:

"O, God, I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight."

And God heard Hezekiah's prayer. God told Isaiah to tell Hezekiah:

"I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold I will add unto thy days fifteen years."

And Isaiah took a cake of figs and laid it for a plaster on Hezekiah's boil, for such was the sickness that Hezekiah had. And Hezekiah got well.

God let Hezekiah live fifteen years longer. He also saved Hezekiah and his city from the hand of an enemy that had come to harm his country and his people.

When Hezekiah got well he wrote a beautiful song, praising God for his goodness.

Memory Verse: "Cleanse me from my sin." Ps. 51:2.

18. Prayer for Forgiveness

(Num. 21:4-9)

It happened one time, when God's people were on the journey through the desert, that they grew tired and discouraged because of the way.

They began to fret and to speak against God and against their leader, Moses.

They forgot how good God had been to them. They even scolded about the beautiful white bread that God had given them.

God had to punish them. He let fiery serpents come among them. They bit the people and many people died.

Then the people came to Moses and cried: "We have sinned because we have spoken against God and against thee.

"Pray unto God, that he take away the serpents from us."

Moses prayed to God.

And God said to Moses: "Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a high post: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he seeth it, shall live."

Moses made a serpent of brass and set it on a high post. And it happened that when they who were bitten looked at the brass serpent, they were no longer punished. God forgave them their sin and let them live.

This happened many years before the time when Christ lived on earth. But as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so was Christ lifted up on the cross whereon he died for the sins of all. And whosoever believeth may in him have eternal life.

Memory Verse: "Pray one for another." James 5:16.

19. Prayer for a Friend

(Acts 12:1-19)

Some friends, who belonged to the church of Jesus in the city of Jerusalem, had come together to pray for one of their members. It was for their friend and preacher, Peter. They prayed that God would save Peter's life.

The wicked king in their land had taken the life of their friend, James, and had put Peter in prison, because they had preached to the people about Jesus.

There in his cell in the prison, Peter was bound by chains to two soldiers and sixteen others guarded the prison.

One night, as he lay sleeping between his guards, an angel of the Lord came and awakened him. The angel said: "Rise up quickly!"

At once the chains fell from Peter's hands. The angel made him hurry into his clothes and told him to follow him. And Peter followed the angel.

At first Peter thought it was a vision he was having. He and the angel passed all the guards, but no one stopped them. And the gate of the city opened of itself and let them pass through.

Before Peter could realize where he was, the angel disappeared. But, as he looked around him, he knew the street of the city, and he said: "Now I know of a truth, that the Lord hath sent his angel and delivered me from the hand of the king."

He hurried at once to the house of his friends. It happened that this house was where the prayer meeting for him was being held. At first his friends could hardly believe that it was Peter who knocked at the door. But soon they let him in and were full of joy to see him.

Peter told them not to say a word about it to anyone except his friends. Then Peter went away to another place, so that the king would not find him, if he sent his soldiers out to hunt for him.

Memory Verse: "Thy will be done." Matt. 6:10.

20. Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

(Matt. 6:9-13)

When Jesus was on earth he taught his friends many wonderful lessons.

One of the most wonderful lessons he taught them was about prayer.

Once he talked to them about how God, the Heavenly Father, wants his children to come before him with humble hearts. The Heavenly Father knows his children's needs, even before they tell him about them. But he wants them to talk with him as they would talk to a father.

Jesus said: "After this manner therefore pray ye:

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.

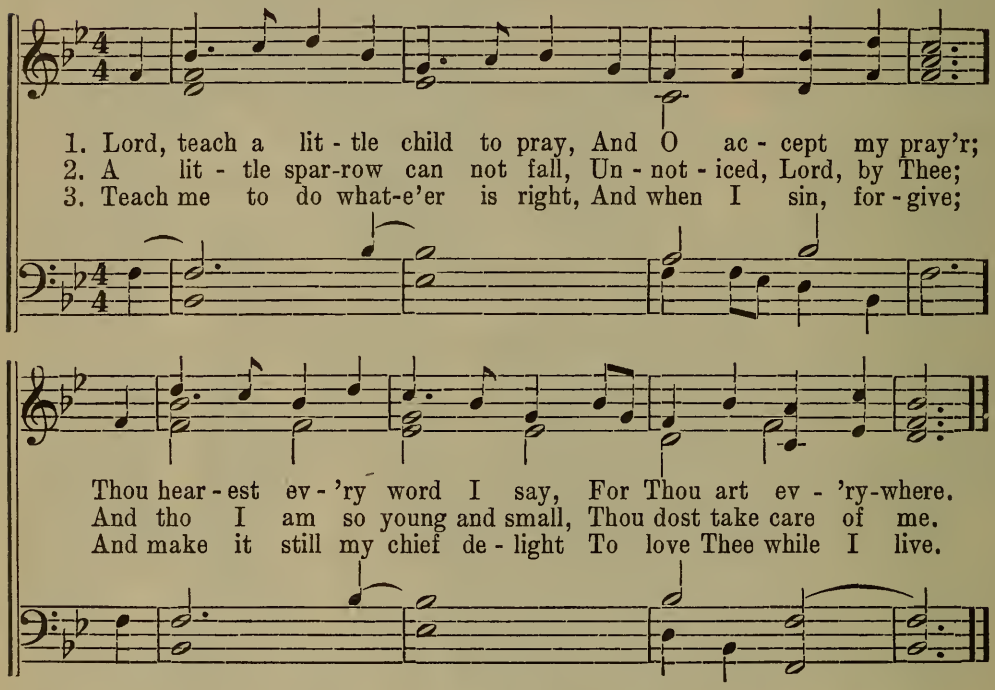
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we also have
forgiven our debtors.
And bring us not into temptation, but deliver
us from the evil one.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever."

Amen.

Lord, Teach a Little Child to Pray

BROWN



THANKSGIVING

Memory Verse:

"Oh Give Thanks Unto Jehovah,
for He is Good."

Ps. 107:1

Memory Work:

The Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

"I am Jehovah thy God.
Thou shallt have no other gods before me."

Memory Verse: "Thou shalt eat and be full, and thou shalt bless Jehovah thy God." Deut. 8:10.

21. Thanksgiving for Daily Bread

(Deut. 8:7-19)

Long, long ago, when God's people were near the end of the long journey through the desert, their leader, Moses, talked to them about being thankful.

He said: "Jehovah thy God bringeth thee unto a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills;

a land of wheat and barley, and vines and fig trees;

a land of olive trees and honey;

a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack anything in it;

And thou shalt eat and be full, and thou shalt bless Jehovah thy God for the good land which he hath given thee."

Memory Verse: "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble." Ps. 46:1.

22. Thanksgiving for Help in Trouble

(Exodus 15:1-21)

Once long ago, God's people sang a beautiful song of thanksgiving, praising God for helping them in a time of great danger.

God's people had left the land where they had been slaves for many years. The wicked king in that land was called Pharaoh, and it was not until God had sent much trouble and sorrow in his land, that he gave God's people their freedom. Now God's people were travelling with their leader, Moses, to a land that God had promised to give them for their own.

They had not gone very far, when Pharaoh began to be sorry he had let them go. He sent soldiers after them to bring them back again, and hurried along with the soldiers as fast as horses and chariots could carry them.

While Pharaoh and his soldiers were riding after them, God had let his people cross safely over a big sea. God let Moses stretch out his hand over the waters and the waters parted so that God's people walked on dry land.

When Pharaoh's soldiers came to the sea, God let the wind blow strong over the water and the sea rolled back and covered them, so that they and their horses drowned. In this way God saved his people.

Then God's people and Moses sang:

"Jehovah is my strength and song,
And he is become my salvation:
This is my God, and I will praise him."

And Miriam, Moses' sister, took a timbrel in her hand and sang:

"Sing ye to Jehovah for he hath triumphed gloriously;
The horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea."

And all the women of God's people followed after Miriam and sang.

Memory Verse: "I love Jehovah, because he heareth my voice and my supplications." Ps. 116:1.

23. Thanksgiving for Answer to Prayer

(Luke 18:35-43)

A crowd of people had gathered around a very happy man. It was on the road to an old city, named Jericho. The happy man was thanking God with all his heart.

The people knew why he was so happy and praised God so joyfully. And the people praised God, too.

Now the man was following after Jesus.

And this is how it all happened:

A little while before, the man sat beside the road. He was a blind beggar. The people hurried by him. They told him that Jesus was passing that way. Perhaps the blind man had heard about Jesus before.

He did not know just where Jesus was on the road. But he felt sure that Jesus could help him. He called out: "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me."

The people told him not to bother Jesus. But the blind man called again more loudly: "Thou son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus heard him. Jesus asked the people to bring the poor blind man to him. Then Jesus asked him: "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?"

The blind man said: "Lord, that I may receive my sight."

The blind man believed on Jesus. Jesus gave him his sight. And he praised God!

Memory Verse: "With free-will-offering will I sacrifice unto thee; I will give thanks unto thy name, O Jehovah, for it it good." Ps. 54:6.

24. A Thanksgiving Offering

(Gen. 8:20-22; 9:8-17)

A long time ago a good man wanted to thank God in a true and beautiful way.

God had saved him and his family in a great flood.

When the flood was over, the good man, whose name was Noah, built an altar unto God. He took of every clean bird and of every clean beast, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. That was Noah's way of thanking God.

God smelled the sweet odor that rose from Noah's thank-offering, and God said in his heart that never again would he send such a flood on the earth.

God talked to Noah and Noah's sons about it, and God put the rainbow in the sky as a sign or token that he would keep his promise, not only to Noah and Noah's sons, but to all living creatures on the earth.

And God promised that while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

All that Hath Life and Breath

Arranged from MENDELSSOHN'S "HYMN OF PRAISE"

All that hath life and breath, Sing to the Lord;

All that hath life and breath, Sing to the Lord! Hal - le-

lu - jah! Sing to the Lord! Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing to the Lord!

"UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN"

Memory Verse:

"He Loved Us, and Sent His Son."

1 John 4:10

Memory Work:

The Ten Commandments.

The Second Commandment:

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, nor any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them."

Memory Verse: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased." Luke 2:14.

25. The Prince of Peace Promised

(Isaiah 9:1-7)

Long, long ago God's people longed for a good king to rule over them. They wanted a king who would bring peace and joy to their land. They had had so many wicked kings who had brought trouble and sorrow over them. The people themselves had not obeyed God. Often the times were dark and sad for them.

Now and then God sent good men to his people to bring them messages about his will, and to tell them good tidings.

Once he sent his messenger, the prophet Isaiah, with a very glad promise to his people. It was a message about something great that would happen in a time to come.

The prophet Isaiah told the people that in a time to come God would bless the land that now was so unhappy. He would bless the country by the River Jordan and by the Sea of Galilee. Then the people, who lived in the darkness of sin and sorrow, would see a great light.

There would be joy unto all the world, for God would send to his people a Prince of Peace. He would come to earth as a little child and grow up to be the Saviour of his people. The government of God's people would be his.

God said that he would be called: Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

And when the Prince of Peace would rule over God's people there would be no end to peace and right.

God had this in store for his people, because he loved them.

Memory Verse: "Thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to make ready his ways." Luke 1:76.

26. The Birth of Christ's Herald

(Luke 1:1-23; 57-79)

As the time drew near for the Prince of Peace to come to earth, God wanted a herald that he could send to tell the people to be ready to receive him.

God sent his angel to earth to talk to a good priest, named Zacharias, about it. God wanted to bless Zacharias and his wife, Elizabeth, by giving them a little baby boy. Zacharias was in the temple, attending to the duties of his office as priest, when the angel appeared. And Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and his heart was filled with fear. But the angel said: "Fear not, Zacharias: because thy prayers are heard. Thou shalt be given a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; many shall rejoice at his birth."

Zacharias could hardly believe the words of the angel. He and Elizabeth had long prayed God to bless their home with a little baby. They had almost begun to think that God never would hear their prayer. How happy the angel's message made them!

When the little baby came, Elizabeth called him John. Zacharias sang a beautiful song of praise to God.

Memory Verse: "Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world!" John 1:29.

27. Christ's Herald Comes Forth

(Luke 3:1-18)

John grew up and waxed strong in spirit. God let John live most of his life in the open country. He lived in the desert, away from the noise and hurry of the town. Here in the open country God talked with him and he with God. God wanted to teach John many things that would help him to become a fearless herald of the Prince of Peace.

When John was about thirty years old, he came to the country around the river Jordan and there began to preach to the people. He told the people they must turn away from their sinful lives, if they would like to be worthy of the Prince of Peace as their king. All who confessed their sins and wanted to lead better lives, he baptized in the waters of the river Jordan.

John was not afraid to tell the people what was wrong with their lives. He told them how to lead happy lives. Many times he preached so mightily about goodness and truth, that many of the people began to think that he was the Prince of Peace God had promised to send into the world.

But John said: "I indeed baptize you with water; but there cometh he that is mightier than I, whose shoe string I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

And with many other words he preached good tidings unto the people.

Memory Verse: "Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for it is he that shall save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:21.

28. The Angel's Message

(Luke 1:26-38)

It was getting nearer and nearer to the time when God was ready to send the Prince of Peace to earth.

So God told his angel to go to a little city called Nazareth, in the land of Galilee, and tell a beautiful secret to a young woman, named Mary. Mary was pure and holy, and God loved her dearly.

The angel told Mary that God wanted to send a little baby boy into the world, and he was to be the Prince of Peace that God had promised his people. He was God's own Son. God wanted Mary, who was so good and pure and holy, to take care of the little baby and to be the little baby's mother.

The angel said: "Thou shalt call his name JESUS." And the angel said, too, that Jesus would be the greatest king that ever lived, and of his kingdom there should be no end.

Mary did not understand it all, but she was very happy, for she knew God had blessed her more than all other women.

She could not keep the wonderful secret all to herself. She went to the home of Elizabeth, who was her relative, and told Elizabeth about God's promise and the angel's message.

Elisabeth was very happy to hear it.

Mary sang a beautiful song of praise to God for the little baby that was to come.

Memory Verse: "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.

29. Jesus is Born

(Luke 2:1-20)

It happened on a beautiful, starlight night long, long ago, in the far away town of Bethlehem, the city of David.

The time had come for God to keep his promise to his people and to Mary. God sent the Prince of Peace to earth as Mary's little baby.

Mary with Joseph, her husband, had travelled a long way and they were tired. When they came to Bethlehem, whither they had journeyed to pay their taxes, there was no other place for them to rest over night than a stable.

And there, in the stable, the baby Jesus, God's Son, was born. Mary wrapped the dear little baby in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.

Out in the fields, on a hillside near Bethlehem, some shepherds were watching their sheep that night. Suddenly a great light shone about them. The shepherds were afraid. But the clear, sweet voice of an angel said: "Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

"And this is the sign unto you: Ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger."

As the angel spoke, many other angels filled the sky and sang the most wonderful song ever heard on earth:

> "Glory to God in the highest,
> And on earth peace among men in whom he is
> well pleased."

When the angels had gone back into heaven, the shepherds went to Bethlehem and found the baby Jesus. Full of joy in their hearts, and singing praises to God, they went back again to their sheep on the hillside.

30. Review

How many stories can you tell without looking in the book?

Do you know all the Memory Verses by heart? Try to repeat each one.

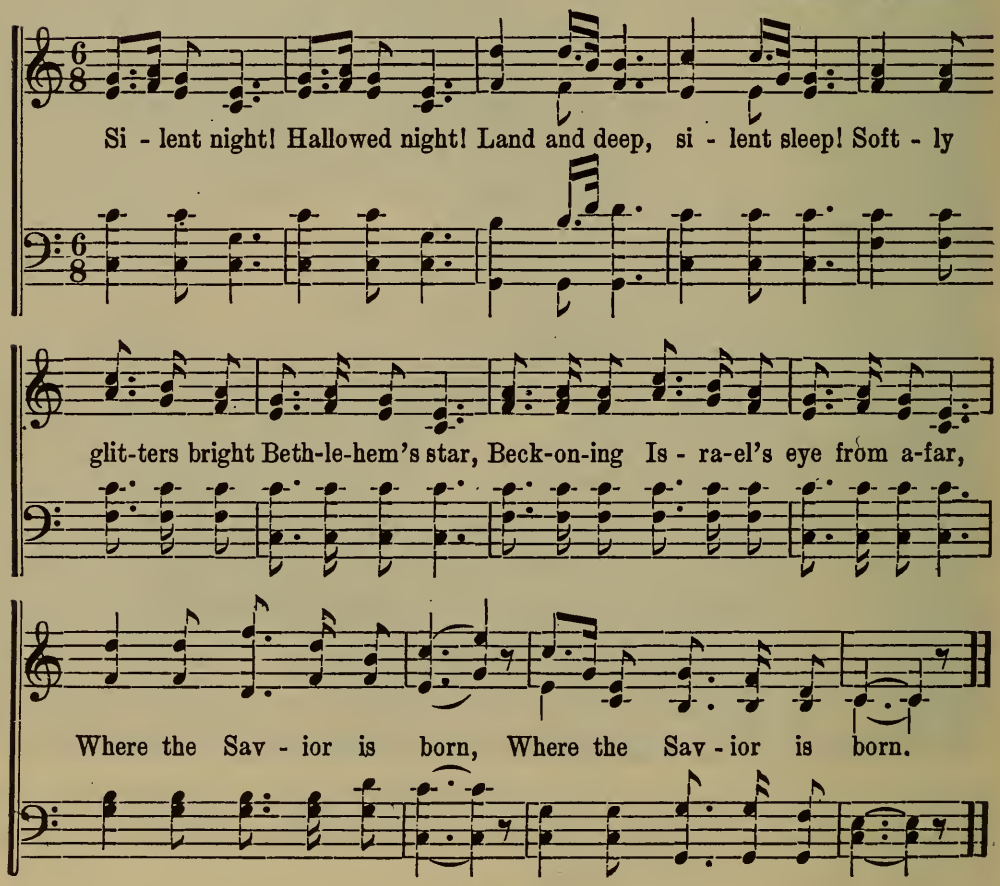
Do you know the Lord's Prayer?

Do you remember to ask God to bless your food, and to thank him each day for all his lovingkindness?

Can you sing some of the songs for mother?

Silent Night! Hallowed Night!

GERMAN MELODY



THE CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

Memory Verse:

"And Jesus Grew in Wisdom and Stature, and in Favor with God and Men."

Luke 2:52

Memory Work:

The Ten Commandments.

The Third Commandment:

"Thou shalt not take the name of Jehovah thy God in vain."

Memory Verse: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for to such belongeth the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16.

31. The Baby Jesus in the Temple

(Luke 2:21-38)

When the baby Jesus was about forty days old, Mary and Joseph took him up to the temple in Jerusalem to present him to God. It was the custom of God's people to do this. And they offered two young doves on the altar as a sacrifice to God when the little child was brought before him in his temple.

In the temple they met a good man, whose name was Simeon. Simeon had been God's friend many, many years and had spent most of his time in the temple. He had known a long time that Jesus was to come to earth. God's spirit had told Simeon that before he died he would see Jesus.

Old Simeon now took the baby Jesus in his arms, and somehow he knew, as he looked at the little baby, that this was the Prince of Peace that God had promised his people.

Simeon rejoiced in his heart and sang a beautiful song of praise to God. He felt that now he was ready to die at any time that God wished to take him home to heaven, for he had seen the face of Jesus.

And there was a good woman in the temple, whose name was Anna. She, too, was very old, and she had served God many years. She, too, came and thanked God for the great gift of his Son.

Simeon and Anna both said some wonderful things about Jesus. Mary and Joseph wondered at the things they told them.

Simeon and Anna gave the baby Jesus and Mary and Joseph their blessing.

Then Joseph took Mary and the baby Jesus home.

Memory Verse: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light." Isaiah 9:2.

32. The King's Star

(Matt. 2:1-12)

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Wise-men from a far away country in the East came to Jerusalem, asking where the new king was born.

They said: "We have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

There was a wicked king in Jerusalem, who had ruled over the land a long time. When he and his helpers heard the words of the Wise-men, they looked at each other in wonder. Some of them remembered that long ago the prophets had talked about a Prince of Peace that was to come to earth. One of the prophets had said:

> "And thou Bethlehem, land of Judah,
> Art in no wise least among the princes of Judah:
> For out of thee shall come forth a governor,
> Who shall be shepherd of my people Israel."

The wicked king, when he heard that, told the Wise-men to hurry to Bethlehem and find the new king, and to be sure to come back to Jerusalem and tell him where they found him.

The Wise-men went their way, and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they were filled with great joy. And they came into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother; and they fell down and worshipped him. They gave the little baby some beautiful gifts. They were so happy that they had seen the new king's star and had now found the Prince of Peace.

And being warned of God in a dream, that they should not go back to Jerusalem, they went into their country again by another way.

Memory Verse: "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." Ps. 34:7.

33. The Child Jesus is Saved from Danger

(Matt. 2:13-17)

When the Wise-men had gone to their country again, God's angel came to Joseph in a dream.

God in heaven had been watching the wicked king in Jerusalem, and knew what the wicked king was thinking in his heart.

So God let the angel tell Joseph: "Arise and take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt and be there until I tell thee."

And Joseph did as the angel told him.

When the wicked king could not find out just where the newborn baby king lived, because the Wise-men had not come back to Jerusalem to tell him, he became very angry. He ordered that all the little baby boys in Bethlehem and the country round about Bethlehem should be killed.

It was a very sad time for Bethlehem and the country round about Bethlehem.

But the baby Jesus was safe. Mary and Joseph and the child stayed in far away Egypt until God sent his angel again to Joseph, and let the angel tell Joseph that the wicked king in Jerusalem was dead.

Then they came back to their country again and made their home in the city of Nazareth in the land of Galilee.

Memory Verse: "Even a child maketh himself known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right." Prov. 20:11.

34. Jesus in His Home

(Luke 2:39-40)

Jesus grew up in his home in Nazareth.

Joseph and Mary were poor, hard-working people. But they loved God and their neighbors, and were very happy in their home.

Mary was a kind and tender mother. Many times she thought about the wonderful things that the angel and the shepherds and Simeon and Anna had told her.

She told little Jesus all the beautiful stories about God's goodness to his people in the bygone times. She taught him God's law and many of the words of the prophets. And she prayed for her little boy. She prayed for all her children. For, as time went on, God sent other little ones to bless the home of Mary and Joseph.

Jesus was a very happy boy. He was always kind and thoughtful and obedient. He was good to his brothers and sisters and playmates. And, surely, he was a wide awake boy in his classes in the synagogue school.

Joseph was a carpenter. When Jesus was big enough to learn to work, Joseph let him help at the carpenter's bench.

Jesus was not only a good son in his home; he was the Son of God.

He grew and waxed strong, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Memory Verse: "I must be in my Father's house."
Luke 2:49.

35. Jesus in the Temple at the Age of Twelve

(Luke 2:41-52)

Joseph and Mary, as was the custom of God's people, went up to Jerusalem once every year to a great feast, called the Feast of the Passover.

When Jesus was twelve years old he went along with them to the Feast of the Passover. They stayed in Jerusalem seven days, and then started the journey homeward.

Joseph and Mary had gone but a day's walk from Jerusalem, when they found that Jesus was not among their company. He was lost!

They started back to Jerusalem at once to seek for him.

They looked everywhere. After three days they found him in the temple. There he sat in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

All who heard his answers to their questions thought that Jesus was an unusual boy. He seemed so well to understand God's law and God's will.

When Mary saw him, she said: "Son, why have you caused us this worry?"

Jesus answered: "How is it that ye sought me? Knew ye not that I must be in my Father's house?"

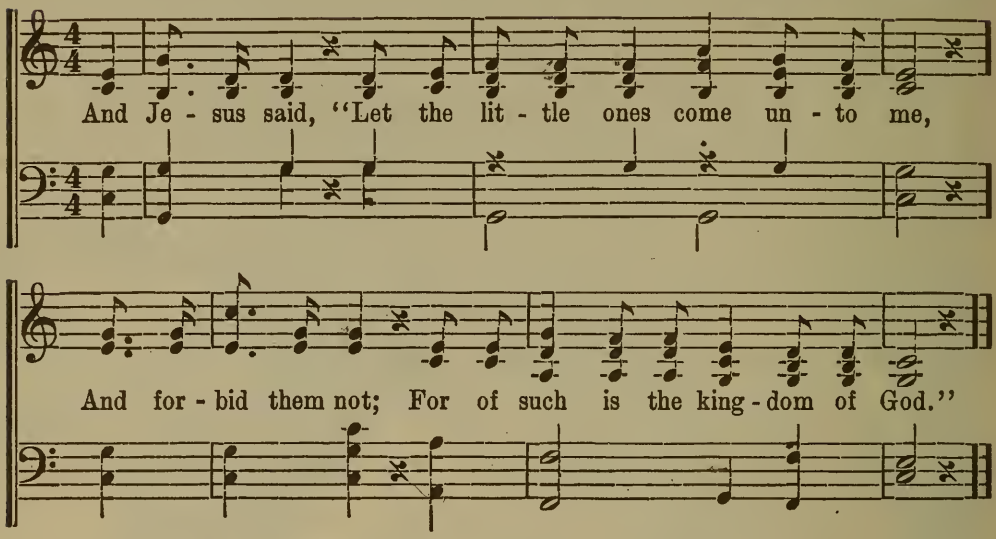
Jesus was the Son of God.

But Jesus went home with Mary and Joseph and obeyed them and loved them, as he had always done.

And he grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.

"Suffer Little Children to Come Unto Me"

CARRIE B. ADAMS



Morning Prayer

"Father, we thank thee for the night,
And for the blessed morning light;
For rest and food and loving care,
And all that makes the world so fair.

"Help me to do the things I should,
To be to others kind and good;
In all I do in work or play,
To grow more loving every day."

Amen.

OBEDIENCE

Memory Verse:

"To Obey is Better than Sacrifice."

1 Sam. 15:22

Memory Work:

The Ten Commandments.

The Fourth Commandment:

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."

The Fifth Commandment:

"Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which Jehovah thy God giveth thee."

Memory Verse: "And Jehovah said . . . . Obey my voice." Jer. 11:6, 7.

36. Adam and Eve Disobey God

(Gen. 3:1-19)

Adam, the first man, and Eve, the first woman, disobeyed God.

One day they forgot to be happy and thankful; they wanted something God did not want them to have. It was the fruit on a certain tree in the Garden of Eden. God knew that Adam and Eve would live so much more happily together in Eden, if they did not eat the fruit of this tree. So God said: "Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."

First Eve ate of it. She had let the temptation to taste of it become too strong for her. She knew she ought not to eat of it, but she did so anyway. After she had done wrong herself, it was easy for her to get Adam to do wrong, too. She gave Adam some of the fruit and he ate of it. Adam and Eve thought they would become as wise as God, who had made them, if they ate of the fruit God did not want them to have.

But, they soon found how unwise they had been. They could no longer feel happy in Eden. They had been God's friends, but now they were ashamed to meet him, when he came to talk with them.

When God asked them what they had done, they began to blame one another.

God had to punish them. They had to learn a hard lesson. They could no longer live in Eden. They would come to know hard work and pain and sorrow.

But God promised that some day he would send a Saviour into the world, to teach men and women the way back to happiness.

Memory Verse: "Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish." Ps. 1:6.

37. What Happened to a Disobedient Man

(2 Sam. 18:29-33)

Once there was a disobedient young man, who nearly broke his father's heart. The young man's name was Absalom, and his father was king David.

Absalom had been thinking proud thoughts in his heart. He wanted to make himself king over God's people; so he plotted against his father, who was the king God had chosen for his people. He raised an army and went to war against his father's friends.

After king David's army had defeated prince Absalom's, a messenger came to David and bowed down before him. The messenger said: "All is well! Blessed be Jehovah, thy God, who hath punished the men that lifted up their hand against my Lord, the king."

But king David's thoughts were not about the victory. He asked the messenger: "Is it well with the young man Absalom?"

Soon another messenger came and bowed down before David and gave him the message of victory. But David only said: "Is it well with the young man Absalom?"

The messenger answered: "May it go with all the king's enemies as it has gone with that young man!"

The king went into the room above the city gate, where he had been sitting. He wept bitterly. He knew by that which the messenger had said that Absalom was dead.

He cried: "O, my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Memory Verse: "We must obey God rather than man." Acts. 5:29.

38. What It Costs to Obey

(Daniel 3.)

Long ago there was a king that made a large image of gold, and then sent word throughout his kingdom that everybody, at a certain time, when the sound of music would be heard, must fall down and worship the golden image.

When the music sounded everybody fell down and worshipped the golden image except three young men who loved the true God, and could not bow down to any graven image.

The king, though angry, gave them another chance. But the three young men said: "Our God, whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the burning, fiery furnace; he will deliver us out of thy hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

The king grew furiously angry. He ordered the furnace, in which he meant to punish those who did not obey his order, heated seven times hotter than ever. He had the three young men bound and cast into it. So hot was the fire that the men who cast them in died of the heat.

But when the king, in a little while, looked into the furnace he was much surprised to see the three young men walking around among the flames, and in their company was an angel. They were no longer bound and the flames did not seem to harm them.

Then the king came near the door of the furnace—as near as he dared — and called to the young men: "Ye servants of the most High God, come forth!"

There was no harm on them. Not even a hair of their head had been burnt. The king said: "Blessed be the God, who hath sent his angel and delivered his servants that trusted in him."

Memory Verse: "And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Ps. 1:3.

39. The Reward of Obedience

(Daniel 1:3-20)

Once, long ago, when God's people were taken prisoners by a heathen king, there were four young men of princely birth among them, whom the king wanted to train for high places at his court.

The king ordered that the four young men should have food and drink from his own table. For three years the young men were to live on this kind of food. After that time they were to come before the king.

But one of the young men, whose name was Daniel, said in his heart that it was wrong to harm his body with the rich food and strong wine from the king's table. He felt that it did not become a man who served God to do so. So he asked that he and his three friends be given simpler food to eat.

The man who had special charge of the food for Daniel and his friends liked Daniel and wanted to please him. But he was afraid if he let the four young men have simpler food, they might grow thin and pale.

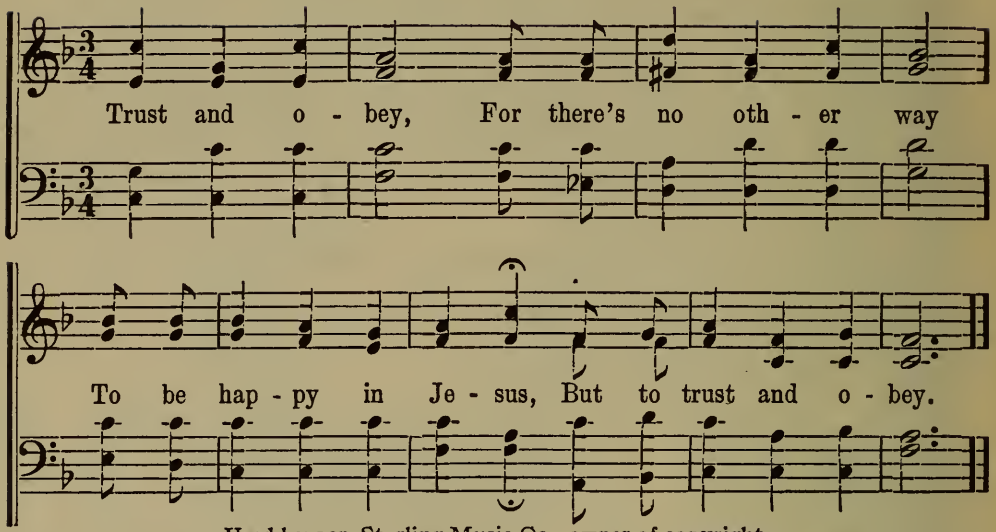
Then Daniel said to him: "Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our faces be looked upon before thee, and the faces of the young men that eat of the king's food; and as thou seest, deal with thy servants."

So they tried it ten days. They looked so well and happy at the end of that time, that they were allowed to keep right on eating the simple food.

When the four young men were brought before the king, after the three years, the king was so well pleased with them, that he gave them high places in his court. None at his court was more handsome to look at than they, and they were ten times wiser than all the other wise men in the king's land.

Trust and Obey

D. B. TOWNER



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"Thanks"—After Meals

"Father, we thank thee for our food;
Bless us; help us to be good."

Amen.

REVERENCE

Memory Verse:

"Worship Jehovah in Holy Array."

Ps. 29:2

Memory Work:

The Ten Commandments.

The Sixth Commandment:

"Thou shalt not kill."

The Seventh Commandment:

"Thou shalt not commit adultery."

The Eighth Commandment:

"Thou shalt not steal."

The Ninth Commandment:

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

The Tenth Commandment:

"Thou shalt not covet . . . anything that is thy neighbors."

Memory Verse: "The place whereon thou standest is holy ground:" Exodus 3:5.

40. Reverence Before God

(Isaiah 6:1-8)

Once, long ago, a young man, named Isaiah, had a wonderful vision of God's presence in the temple.

Isaiah saw God sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and God's presence filled the temple. God's holy servants, the seraphim, stood around him and said loudly to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is Jehovah of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."

The temple shook with the mighty sound of the voices.

Isaiah very deeply felt God's presence. He said: "Woe is me! I am a man of unclean lips, and dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of hosts."

Then one of the seraphim flew to Isaiah with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar in the temple, and he touched Isaiah's lips with it and said: "Lo, this hath touched thy lips, and thy sin is forgiven." It was a sign to Isaiah of God's holiness and grace.

Then Isaiah heard God's voice saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

God had a special work that he needed Isaiah to do for him. God had a message for his people that he wanted Isaiah to carry to them.

And Isaiah, who had seen God in this vision of holiness and glory, answered the voice of God:

"Here am I, send me!"

Memory Verse: "Thy word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against thee." Ps. 119:11.

41. Reverence for God's Book

(2 Kings 22:8—23:3)

God's people, in the long ago, were not always reverent about God's Book. There was a time when the scrolls, on which God's laws were written, were lost for many years. During that time God's people forgot God's laws and forgot God's ways. They even forsook God's House, the temple, and let it become like a waste and empty place.

Then a good king, named Josiah, came to rule over God's people. He had the temple put in order again.

One day, when they were working at putting the temple in order, the high priest, whose name was Hilkiah, found the book of the law among a lot of rubbish. Hilkiah brought it to a man, named Shaphan. Shaphan read it. Then Shaphan took the book to king Josiah.

When Josiah heard the words of God's law, he became very much grieved, for he knew that the people had not kept God's law.

Josiah himself had lived a good life. But he knew that God's people had earned punishment because of their wicked lives.

Josiah was happy, too, — happy that the book of the law had been found.

He called together all the people in the temple and read God's Word to them. And before all the people, Josiah made a promise to God that he would keep God's law with all his heart and with all his soul. And the people joined Josiah in the promise. They did away with their idols and returned to God's ways.

Memory Verse: "This is the day which Jehovah hath made; We will rejoice and be glad in it." Ps. 118:24.

42. Reverence for God's Day

(Exodus 16:22-30)

Long ago, when God's people were on the journey through the desert, God had to remind them to keep his day holy.

God said to Moses, the leader of his people: "How long refuse ye to keep my laws?"

God had made it easy for his people to keep his day holy. He had given them bread from heaven for every day's need, and fixed it so, that on the sixth day of the week there was a double supply for them.

For God had said: "To-morrow is a solemn rest, a holy sabbath unto God. Bake that which ye will bake, and boil that which ye will boil; and all that remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning."

And God's people kept that which was over for their meals on God's Day.

Moses said: "Eat that to-day; for to-day is a sabbath unto God: to-day ye shall not find it in the field. Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day is the sabbath, in it there shall be none."

Yet, on the seventh day some of the people were greedy enough to go out to gather bread. But they found none.

The true-hearted people did not think it was asking too much of them to keep God's Day holy and stay away from all work that they did not need to do.

So they rested on God's Day.

Memory Verse: "Jehovah is in his holy temple." Ps. 11:4.

43. Reverence for God's House

(Ezra 6:15-21)

God's people, once in the long ago, had been away from their own land a great many years. In all that time they had been away from God's House, too.

When they came back to their land again, they found the temple in ruins. One of the first things they did was to build up the temple. This they did under the guidance of their leader, Ezra.

When the temple was finished, Ezra, together with the priests and all the people, came together to dedicate it to God. That means, that their first meeting in the new temple was a thanksgiving service to God.

According to the custom of God's people, they offered sacrifices to God on the altar in the temple. They brought bullocks and rams and lambs to be sacrificed. And they made an offering of twelve goats, as they asked forgiveness for their sins.

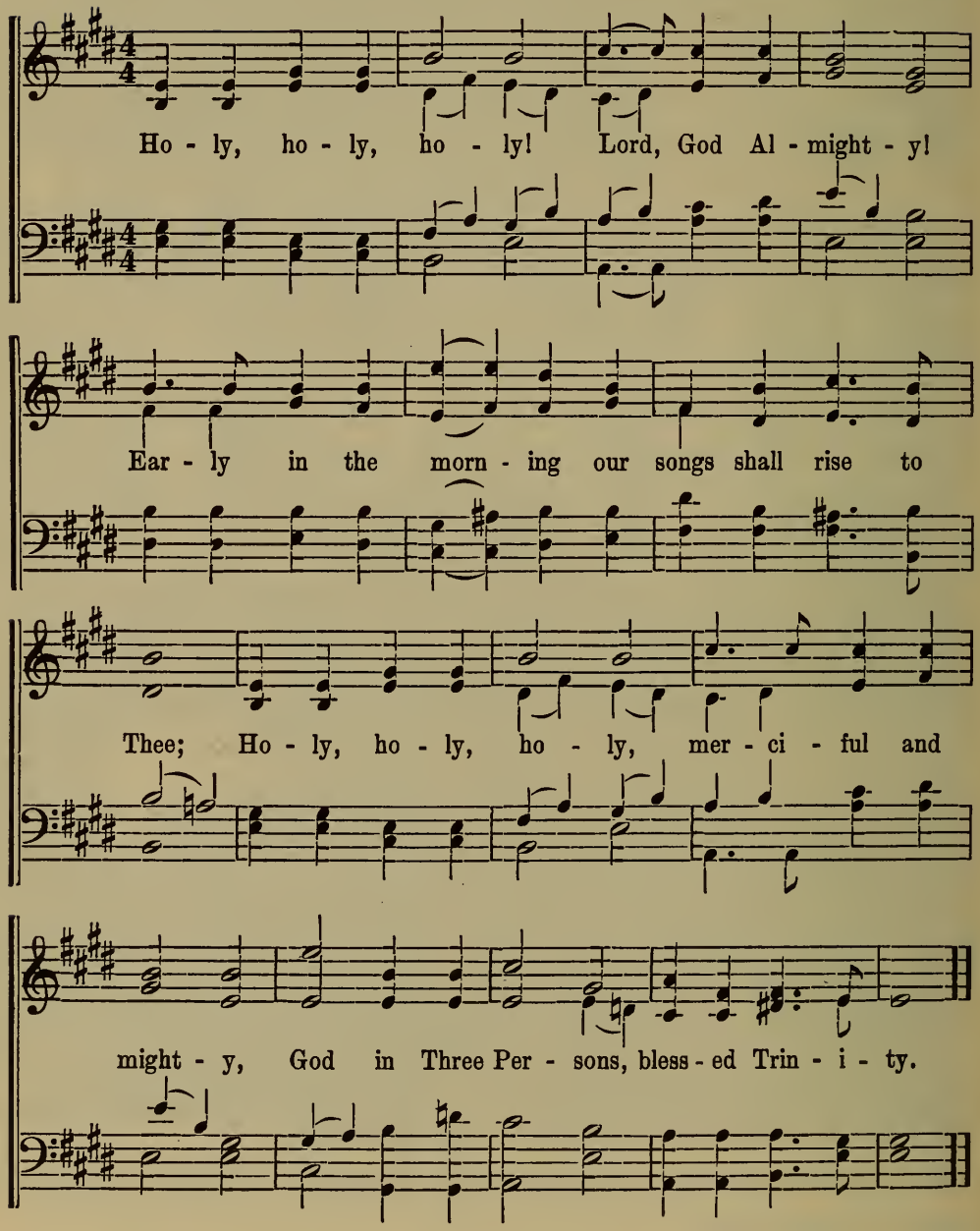
The people were so happy to come together and worship God in his temple again! But they felt that they needed to be clean and pure and holy. God lived in his temple, and everything that entered there should be worthy of his presence.

They held the Feast of the Passover, too, as a token of remembrance for all God's goodness, for he had once more brought them out of a strange land. Never again did they want to worship any other but the true God.

God had made them joyful in the holiness and gladness and peace of his house.

Holy, Holy, Holy!

REV. J. B. DYKES



EASTER LESSONS

Memory Verse:

"The Free Gift of God is Eternal Life in Christ Jesus Our Lord."

Rom. 6:23

Memory Work:

Review: The Lord's Prayer.

Memory Verse: "My Father, ... not as I will, but as thou wilt." Matt. 26:39.

44. Jesus in Gethsemane

(Matt. 26:36-46)

Near the end of his lifetime on earth, Jesus came one night to a garden, whither he had often before come to pray. The name of the garden was Gethsemane.

Jesus was greatly troubled. One of his twelve disciples had become a false friend. He had sold Jesus to the enemies. Jesus knew that before very long he would be in the hands of his enemies, who sought to take his life. This grieved him. But most of all he grieved over the sin and wickedness in the hearts of the people who wanted to do this.

He had come to the garden to talk with God about it. He prayed very fervently. He needed strength. He said: "My Father, if it is possible, take this suffering away from me: yet not as I will, but as thou wilt." And there appeared unto him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

When Jesus had prayed awhile he looked about him for Peter, James, and John, whom he had brought with him into the garden. They had fallen asleep. He looked at Peter and said: "What, could ye not watch with me one hour!" Jesus knew how willing they had been to watch and pray, but he knew, too, how very tired their bodies were. They could not feel the great grief that he felt.

So Jesus left them and went away deeper into the garden a second time to pray. And he came back to them and went away a third time to pray. Each time he talked to God just as he had at first. Each time he came back to the three disciples he found them sleeping.

At last he waked them up. He said: "Arise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that betrayeth me."

Memory Verse: "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures." 1 Cor. 15:3.

45. The Crucifixion

(Luke 23:21-54)

"Crucify, crucify him!"

That was what the people in Jerusalem, one day long ago, kept shouting, while their governor tried to make Jesus free.

Then the governor turned Jesus over to the soldiers to be crucified, and let a very wicked man, named Barabbas, go free instead.

The soldiers made Jesus carry his own cross from the city to the place where it was to be raised. When Jesus, who was weak from all the suffering he had gone through, fell beneath the heavy cross, another had to carry it for him. Two other men were also being led out of the city to be crucified alongside of Jesus. They were wicked men, who had earned their punishment.

When they reached the hill where the crosses were to be raised, the soldiers nailed Jesus to his cross. As they did so, Jesus prayed for them. He said: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

After they had raised his cross between the crosses of the two wicked men, the soldiers began to divide Jesus' clothes among them. They cast lots over them as to who should have them. The people and their leaders gathered around the cross and laughed and mocked at Jesus. Their governor had placed a sign above the cross, and it had these words on it: "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

One of the men, crucified beside Jesus, said to him: "Remember me when thou comest in thy kingdom." Jesus answered him: "To-day shalt thou be with me in Paradise." The man on the other side only laughed and mocked at Jesus.

About noontime darkness came over the land. There was an earthquake, too. It was dark until about three o'clock in the afternoon, when Jesus died. As he died he said, "Father into thy hands I commend my spirit."

Memory Verse: "But now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the first fruits of them that are asleep." 1 Cor. 15:20.

46. The Resurrection

(Matt. 28:1-10)

"He is risen!"

That was part of the message a beautiful, shining angel gave to some women, who were friends of Jesus, and who came very early in the morning on the first day of the week, to see his grave.

Just a little while before the women came to the grave, there had been a mighty earthquake. An angel of the Lord had come down from heaven and rolled away the big stone that the enemies of Jesus had put before his grave.

Now the grave was open! The angel sat on the stone. The angel's clothes were white as snow and his whole being was bright and beautiful like lightning. The soldiers that the governor had placed around the grave to guard it, had all been frightened away.

Perhaps Jesus' friends would have been frightened away, too, had not the angel spoken to them in the beautiful way he did:

"Fear ye not; for I know that ye seek Jesus, who hath been crucified. He is not here; for he is risen even as he said. Come see the place where the Lord lay."

The angel told the women to go quickly and tell Jesus' other friends, the disciples, that Jesus had risen from the dead. The angel said: "Tell his disciples: He is risen from the dead; and lo, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him."

And the women went with fear and great joy. And behold, Jesus met them. They were so happy to see Jesus, that they fell to his feet and worshipped him.

Jesus said to them: "Fear not; go tell my brethren that they depart into Galilee and there shall they see me."

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ITHAMAR CONKEY

In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing

o'er the wrecks of time, All the light of

sa - cred sto - ry, Gath - ers round the cross sub - lime.

JESUS, OUR HELPER

Memory Verse:

"Jesus . . . Went About Doing Good,
and Healing All that Were Oppressed."
Acts 10:38

Memory Work:

Review: The Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments In Rhyme:

1. Thou shalt have no Gods but me,
2. Before no idol bow thy knee.
3. Take not the name of God in vain.
4. Dare not the sabbath day profane.
5. Give both thy parents honor due.
6. Hate not, that thou no murder do.
7. Keep from thoughts and deeds unclean.
8. Steal not, for thou by God art seen.
9. Nor make a wilful lie nor love it,
10. What is thy neighbor's, do not covet.

Memory Verse: "Then shall the lame man leap as a hart." Isaiah 35:6.

47. Jesus Heals a Lame Man

(Mark 2:1-12)

Once four friends brought a lame man to Jesus. Jesus had just come home to the house in which he lived when he was in the city of Capernaum. The lame man's four friends had heard about it. So had many other people in Capernaum, and a great crowd gathered in and around the house where Jesus was.

The people were so anxious to see and hear Jesus, that they even crowded the doorway to the house.

When the four men, carrying the lame friend on his bed, saw that they could not reach Jesus through the crowd, they took their burden up on the roof of the house. There they cut a hole in the flat tile roof, and let down the lame man on his bed, right before the feet of Jesus.

Jesus saw their great faith.

He said to the lame man: "Son, thy sins are forgiven thee."

Some of Jesus' enemies were sitting among the crowd. They began to think in their hearts: "Why does this man speak so? Who can forgive sins but God?"

Jesus, who knew their innermost thoughts, said to them: "Why reason ye these things in your hearts?"

For Jesus, who knew that ofttimes sickness is caused by sin, it was just as easy to make the man's soul clean, by forgiving him his sins, as it was to make his body strong, so that he could walk again. God had given Jesus power on earth to forgive sins. Jesus was God's Son as well as man's helper.

Then Jesus said to the lame man: "Arise, take up thy bed and go unto thy house." And the lame man arose, picked up his bed, and went home.

The people were filled with great wonder. They praised God. Never before had they seen Jesus heal a lame man in just that way.

Memory Verse: "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened." Isaiah 35:5.

48. Jesus Gives Sight to a Man Born Blind

(John 9)

One day, as Jesus was walking along the way, after leaving the temple, he saw a man who had been blind all his life.

Jesus' friends, the disciples, thought maybe the blind man's parents had been wicked people and for that reason their boy had been born blind. But Jesus said it was not so.

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world."

Then he spat on the ground and made a paste of clay. He took of this paste and spread it on the blind man's eyelids. Then he told him to go wash in a certain pool. The blind man did as Jesus told him, and he came back seeing.

All the blind man's neighbors and friends wondered over that which had happened to him. He told them that a man, named Jesus, had helped him in a wonderful way so that he now could see.

When Jesus' enemies saw the man, they tried to make him believe all kinds of untrue things about Jesus. Jesus had given the man his sight on the sabbath day, and Jesus' enemies did not like that. They said Jesus was not a man of God. But the man, who had been blind, knew that Jesus, whoever he was, had been a great deal kinder than his enemies. When he told them so, they drove him away from them.

Jesus heard about this. He found the man and asked him: "Dost thou believe on the Son of God?"

The man said: "Who is the Son of God, that I may believe on him?"

Jesus told him: "Thou hast both seen him and he it is who speaketh with thee."

Then the man said: "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Jesus.

Memory Verse: "He hath done all things well; he maketh even the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak." Mark 7:37.

49. Jesus Gives Hearing to a Deaf Man

(Mark 7:31-37)

One time, as Jesus came through the country on the east side of the Sea of Galilee, the people brought to him a man who was deaf and who could not talk plainly. They asked Jesus to lay his hand on the man and make him whole.

But Jesus took the man aside with him, away from the crowds, and put his finger into the man's ears, and spat, and touched his tongue, and looked up to heaven and sighed, and said to the man: "Be opened!"

And the man's ears were opened, so that he could hear, and the bond of his tongue was loosed, so that he could speak plainly.

Jesus told the people not to tell anyone about it. But the more Jesus charged them not to tell, the more they talked about it.

The people were so surprised at Jesus' great power. They said about him: "He hath done all things well; he maketh even the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak."

Memory Verse: "The man believed the word that Jesus spake unto him." John 4:50.

50. Jesus Heals the Nobleman's Son

(John 4:46-53)

One time, when Jesus came into Cana in the land of Galilee, a nobleman came to him and asked him to make his sick boy well.

The nobleman had journeyed a long way from his home. He had heard that Jesus was coming to Cana, and he came there to seek him. His little boy was very sick and might die at any time. He wanted Jesus to come home with him right away.

Jesus wanted to see how great the nobleman's faith might be. So many people just wanted to believe in Jesus because of the wonders that he did. Jesus said to the nobleman: "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will in no wise believe."

But the sick boy's father felt sure in his heart that Jesus could help him. He pleaded with Jesus: "Sir, come down ere my child die."

Jesus said to him: "Go thy way; thy son liveth."

And the man believed the word that Jesus spoke unto him, and he started for home.

On the way some of his servants met him and brought the glad news, that the little boy was getting better. The nobleman was so happy! He asked them to tell him at what time the boy began to get well.

They said: "Yesterday, at the seventh hour the fever left him."

The nobleman knew that was the hour in which Jesus had said to him: "Thy son liveth."

And the nobleman and his boy and everybody in his house believed on Jesus.

Memory Verse: "I am the bread of life." John 6:48.

51. Jesus Feeds the Hungry

(John 6:1-14)

Jesus and his friends, the twelve disciples, had gone away over the Sea of Galilee to a quiet place on the other side. They wanted to get away from the crowds for a little while to rest and talk by themselves. But a great crowd of people followed after them.

When Jesus saw that many had followed him, he wanted to help them. They were far from their homes and many of them had had nothing to eat for a long time. Jesus knew what he wished to do to help them, but he wanted to hear what one of his disciples, named Philip, had thought about it. He said to Philip: "Where are we to buy bread that these may eat?"

Philip answered: "Two hundred shillings' worth of bread is not enough, that everyone may take a little."

In that moment another of Jesus' friends, the disciple Andrew, spied a little boy in the crowd. The little boy had a basket with some food in it.

Andrew said: "There is a lad here, who hath five barley loaves, and two fishes. But what are these among so many?"

Jesus said: "Make the people to sit down!"

About five thousand men, and many women and little children, sat down on the grass.

Jesus took the little boy's basket and blessed the food that was in it. The five loaves and the two fishes became more and more, so that all the people had as much to eat of it as they wanted. When the meal was over, Jesus' twelve friends gathered up in their baskets that which was left over, and it filled their baskets.

The people thought that this was the greatest thing Jesus had ever done for them, and they said: "This is of a truth the king that God hath promised to the world."

Memory Verse: "I am the resurrection and the life."
John 11:25.

52. Jesus Raises a Little Girl from the Dead

(Mark 5:22, 24, 36-43)

Once, when Jesus had come home from a journey across the Sea of Galilee, a man, by the name of Jairus, came and bowed down before him.

Jairus was in great trouble. He said to Jesus: "My little daughter is at the point of death: I pray thee, that thou wilt come and lay hands on her, that she may be made whole and live."

Jesus went with Jairus. A great crowd of people followed them. Here and there on the road Jesus had to stop and talk to the people and help them in their troubles. As they walked along, someone from Jairus' house met them with the message that the little girl had died.

Jesus spoke very kindly to Jairus. He said: "Fear not, only believe."

Then Jesus told the people they could follow him no farther. He must hurry to Jairus' home. Only his three friends, the disciples Peter, James, and John, were allowed to come with him.

When they reached Jairus' house, they found a great crowd of people had gathered there. Jesus told them not to weep, for the little girl was only sleeping. The people laughed at that. But Jesus made them all leave the house, and taking Jairus and his wife, and Peter, James, and John with him, he went into the room where the little girl lay.

Jesus took the little girl by the hand and said: "I say unto thee, Arise!" And the little girl rose up and walked.

All who saw it were filled with great wonder.

Jesus asked them not to tell anyone about it. Then he ordered them to give the little girl something to eat.

Jesus Loves Me!

BRADBURY

Je - sus loves me, this I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so;

Lit - tle ones to Him be - long, They are weak, but He is strong.

CHORUS.

Yes, Je - sus loves me, Yes, Je - sus loves me,

Yes, Je - sus loves me, The Bi - ble tells me so.

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